

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2218

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BTRA, SW
SUBJECT: KISSINGER VISIT

1. WE ARE REPORTING SEPARATELY ON THE MORE
PUBLIC ASPECTS OF DR. HENRY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO
STOCKHOLM JUNE 5-8 AS HEAD OF THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK
INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE. IN THIS MESSAGE I WISH
TO REPORT ON MY PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH KISSINGER AND ON HIS
MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SODER.

2. I MET KISSINGER UPON ARRIVAL IN STOCKHOLM AND WE HAD A
GOOD CHAT DRIVING IN FROM THE AIRPORT. HE WAS
PERSONALLY MOST AGREEABLE AND APPRECIATIVE THAT I MET HIM.
EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO EXPRESS
HIS GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE LINES OF THE
ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY--SOMETHING HE HAS ALSO
MADE CLEAR IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS HERE--AND
PARTICULARLY TOLD ME OF HIS ADMIRATION FOR THE SECRETARY
AND HIS APPRECIATION OF THE JOB HE IS DOING. HE
SEVERAL TIMES STRESSED THE FACT OF HIS APPROVAL OF OUR
POLICIES AND SIAD IT WAS UNTHINKABLE HE WOULD EXPRESS
ANY DIFFERENCES WITH THE LEADERS OF A FOREIGN
GOVERNMENT. KISSINGER INVITED ME TO JOIN HIM JUNE 4
IN HIS MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SODER, BUT SINCE
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I WAS HOSTING A RECEPTION FOR THE GROUP THAT
BEGAN BEFORE THAT MEETING WAS OVER I HAD TO DECLINE.
KISSINGER SAID HE WOULD GIVE ME A FULL REPORT BEFORE
HE DEPARTED SWEDEN.

3. OUR SWEDISH FRIENDS GAVE US A GOOD FILL-IN AT MY
RECEPTION SUNDAY EVENING OF THE KISSINGER-SODER TALKS,

WHICH WERE APPARENTLY VERY HARMONIOUS AND USEFUL. AGAIN DR. KISSINGER GAVE SUPPORT TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS IN GENERAL. ON SALT, HE WAS RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC, SAYING HE EXPECTED AN AGREEMENT TO BE INITIALED BY ABOUT SEPTEMBER. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF AFRICAN EVENTS, WITH KISSINGER STATING SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL FOR AN AFRICAN SECURITY FORCE. CHINA AND VIETNAM WERE ALSO DISCUSSED, TAKING OFF FROM MRS. SODER'S RECENT VISIT THERE. (SINCE THE KING AND QUEEN OF SWEDEN, ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. SODER, BEGIN THEIR VISIT TO THE USSR THIS WEEK, SOVIET AFFAIRS GOT MOST ATTENTION, AS MRS. SODER NOTED IN HER REMARKS TO THE PRESS.) IN THE DISCUSSION OF STRATEGIC AFFAIRS ONE OF THE SWEDISH PARTICIPANTS ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE EFFECT OF THE 600-KILOMETER LIMIT OF SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES ON SWEDISH AND NORDIC SECURITY, BUT KISSINGER DISMISSED THIS AS NOT A SERIOUS QUESTION.

4. IN HIS TALKS WITH MRS. SODER, KISSINGER REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE STABILITY OF THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP IN VIEW OF BREZHNEV'S FAILING HEALTH. HE ALSO TOLD THE SWEDES THAT IN HIS JUDGMENT THE NATIONALITY PROBLEM WAS A SERIOUS MATTER FOR THE SOVIET FUTURE. LATER IN HIS PERSONAL TALK WITH ME DR. KISSINGER ADDED THAT HE FULLY SUPPORTED THE ADMINISTRATION'S
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TION'S TOUGHER LINE WITH THE RUSSIANS, AND WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN TOUGHER HIMSELF IF HE WERE STILL MAKING POLICY, AND AT THE RECEPTION HE HAD A SYNOPSIS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SWEDES WHICH ACCORDED WITH WHAT OUR SWEDISH CONTACTS HAD TOLD US.

5. ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT SEEN THE TRANSCRIPT YET OF KISSINGER'S AND DAVID ROCKEFELLER'S PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY, MY PAO ATTENDED AND REPORTS THAT BOTH GAVE "HIGHLY INTELLIGENT SUPPORT" TO THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY ON ALL ISSUES INCLUDING THE MONDALE SPEECH AT THE SSOD AND THE PAN AFRICAN FORCE. ROCKEFELLER WAS ALSO REPORTEDLY VERY HELPFUL IN TALKING ABOUT SWEDISH AFFAIRS, SAYING THE GOS SEEMED TO HIM TO HAVE A "GOOD GRIP ON WHAT SWEDEN NEEDS." ROCKEFELLER'S GRASP OF SCANDINAVIAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS WAS EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE TO ME IN OUR PERSONAL CONVERSATION. IN A DEEPLY PERSONAL SENSE HE WAS THE PERSONIFICATION OF GRACIOUSNESS AND SENSITIVITY.

6. COMMENT. THE SWEDES HAVE BEEN VERY WELL IMPRESSED

BY THE KISSINGER-ROCKEFELLER VISIT. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT
BOTH ARE DOING A GOOD JOB OF PROMOTING OVERALL
AMERICAN INTERESTS BY THEIR VISITS HERE AND DR.
KISSINGER'S UNIQUE REPUTATION HAS SEEN HIS COMMENTS
CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZED. BY PERSONAL OBSERVATION AND BY
ALL REPORTS HE HAS BEEN TOTALLY SUPPORTIVE OF USG
POSITIONS. HE AGAIN SAID HE WOULD CALL IN AND REPORT
TO ME PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM SWEDEN IN MID-WEEK.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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